

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

21. (Currently amended) A method for inducing chondrogenesis, said method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a composition comprising bone morphogenetic protein-9, autologous non-tissue culture expanded CD105+ cells isolated from the patient's bone marrow₁ and a suitable matrix carrier.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 ~~further comprising administering a protein selected from the Transforming Growth Factor-Beta (TGF- β) superfamily of proteins, wherein the protein is capable of inducing the formation of cartilage tissue~~ wherein the composition further comprises bone morphogenetic protein-2.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A method for treating arthritis, said method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a composition comprising bone morphogenetic protein-9, autologous non-tissue culture expanded CD105+ cells isolated from the patient's bone marrow₁ and a suitable matrix carrier.

27. (Currently amended) A method for treating articular cartilage defects or damage, said method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a composition comprising bone morphogenetic protein-9, autologous non-tissue culture expanded CD105+ cells isolated from the patient's bone marrow₁ and a suitable matrix carrier.

28. (Currently amended) A method for repairing cartilage tissue said method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a composition comprising bone morphogenetic protein-9, autologous non-tissue culture expanded CD105+ cells isolated from the patient's bone marrow, and a suitable matrix carrier, and a protein selected from the TGF- β superfamily of proteins, wherein the protein is capable of inducing the formation of cartilage tissue.

29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, ~~further comprising administering protein selected from the TGF- β superfamily of proteins, wherein the protein is capable of inducing the formation of cartilage tissue~~ wherein the composition further comprises bone morphogenetic protein-2.

33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, ~~further comprising administering a protein selected from the TGF- β superfamily of proteins, wherein the protein is capable of inducing the formation of cartilage tissue~~ wherein the composition further comprises bone morphogenetic protein-2.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition further comprises bone morphogenetic protein-2.